4-2

1993
Year of Revision

State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Nomination for Waters
Important to Anadromous Fish

ALASKA DEPT. OF
FISH & GAME

DEC 18 1991

REGION II
HABITAT DIVISION

Anadromous Water Catalog Volume S.E.

USGS Quad JNO B-2

Name of Waterway Montana Creek

Anadromous Water Catalog Number of Waterway
111-50-10500-2003-3060-4014

Change to _____ Atlas
_____ Catalog
X Both

Addition X (A) on a Hacked map

Deletion _____

Correction _____

Name addition:

USGS name _____

Local name _____

For Office Use

Nomination # 92 301

Richard Reed — Regional Supervisor — 12/17/91 Date

Ed Weiss — 12/16/92

D. Drone — Drafted — 1/7/93 Date

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Migration
Coho	fall-annually	2-30 adults	many observed	~~observed~~
Dolly Varden	october-annually	10-40 adults	many observed	
Chum	July-August annually	10-50 adults		

Comments: Provide any clarifying information, including number of fish observed, location of fish survey data, etc.

spawning tributary off McGinnis Creek. Two to 30 adult cohos and 10 to 40 Dolly Varden spawners counted in stream every October during escapement surveys. Fish in tributary included in total Montana - McGinnis Creek survey counts

Attach a copy of a map showing location of mouth and upper points of each species, specific stream reaches identified for spawning or rearing, locations of barriers, such as falls. Attach a copy of the fish survey data, if available.

Name of Observer (please print) _____

Date: 12/16/91 Signature: _____

Address: _____

Signature of Area Biologist: _____

MIKE BETHERS
AREA MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST
JUNEAU - YAKUTAT AREA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
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PHONE: (907) 465-4270

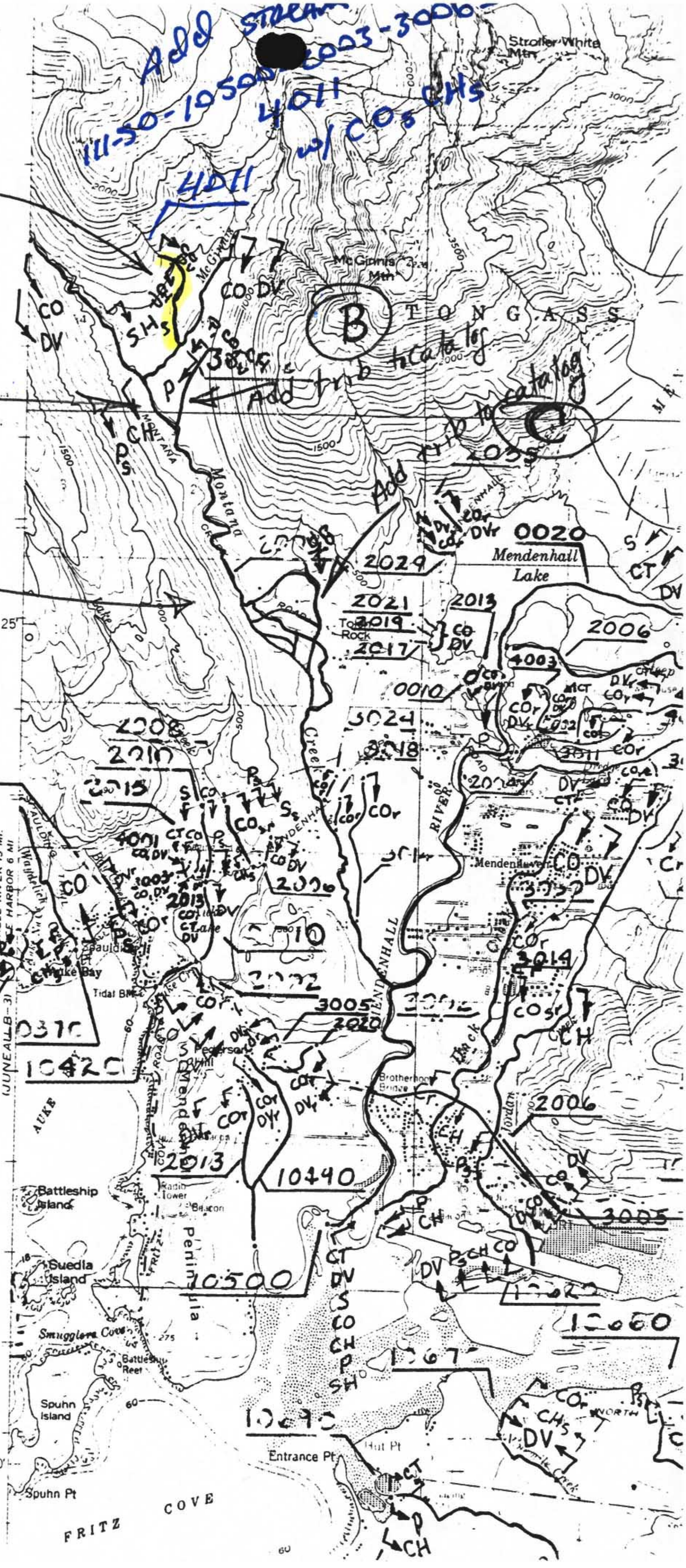
JNO B-2

" Add "Spring Pond" Creek

(A)

"Little McGinnis" Creek

Change
Montana Creek
Stream Channel
(now braided as
shown on this map)
(both sides of Montana Cr Rd)



State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
Nomination for Waters
Important to Anadromous Fi...

ALREADY IN ATLAS

AWC Volume SE SC SW W AR IN USGS Quad Juneau B-2

Anadromous Water Catalog Number of Waterway 111-50-10500-2003-~~3006~~ 3060-4011 ~~4XXX~~

Name of Waterway Spring Creek USGS name ___ Local name Spring Ck.

Addition ~~X~~ Deletion ___ Correction ___ Backup Information X

For Office Use

Nomination # 96 044

Revision Year: ___

Revision to: Atlas ___ Catalog ___ Both ___

Revision Code: F-1

Sara Shea Flanders — Regional Supervisor — 1-19-96 — Date

Dean W. Hughes — 2/5/96

N/A — Drafted — — Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Migration	Anadromous
Coho Salmon	1989-1995				
" "	10/13/95	86			
" "	10/16/95	8			

IMPORTANT: Provide all supporting documentation that this water body is important for the spawning, rearing or migration of anadromous fish, including: number of fish and life stages observed; sampling methods, sampling duration and area sampled; copies of field notes; etc. Attach a copy of a map showing location of mouth and observed upper extent of each species, as well as any other information such as: specific stream reaches observed as spawning or rearing habitat; locations, types, and heights of any barriers; etc.

Comments: See Attachment

RECEIVED
1995
I&R REGION

ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH & GAME
JAN 24 1996
REGION II
HABITAT AND RESTORATION DIVISION

Name of Observer (please print) Brian J. Glynn

Date: 11/30/95 Signature: Brian J Glynn

Address: PO Box 211196
Auke Bay, Ak 99821

This certifies that in my best professional judgement and belief the above information is evidence that this waterbody should be included in or deleted from the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes per AS 16.05.870.

Signature of Area Biologist: Mark Stilwell
Janet Schempf

Rev. 7/93

Supporting documentation for submission of Anadromous Waterway 111-50-10500-2003-3006-4XXX.

This tributary, locally known as Spring Creek, flows into the west side of McGinnis Creek approximately 1/2 mile upstream of the confluence of McGinnis and Montana Creeks. Since the late 1970's, Spring Creek has been included in the annual index survey of spawning coho salmon and is considered to be one of the major tributaries utilized by spawning coho salmon in the Montana/McGinnis Creek drainage (Bethers, M.; K. Munk and C. Seifert. 1993. Juneau Habitat Assessment, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.)

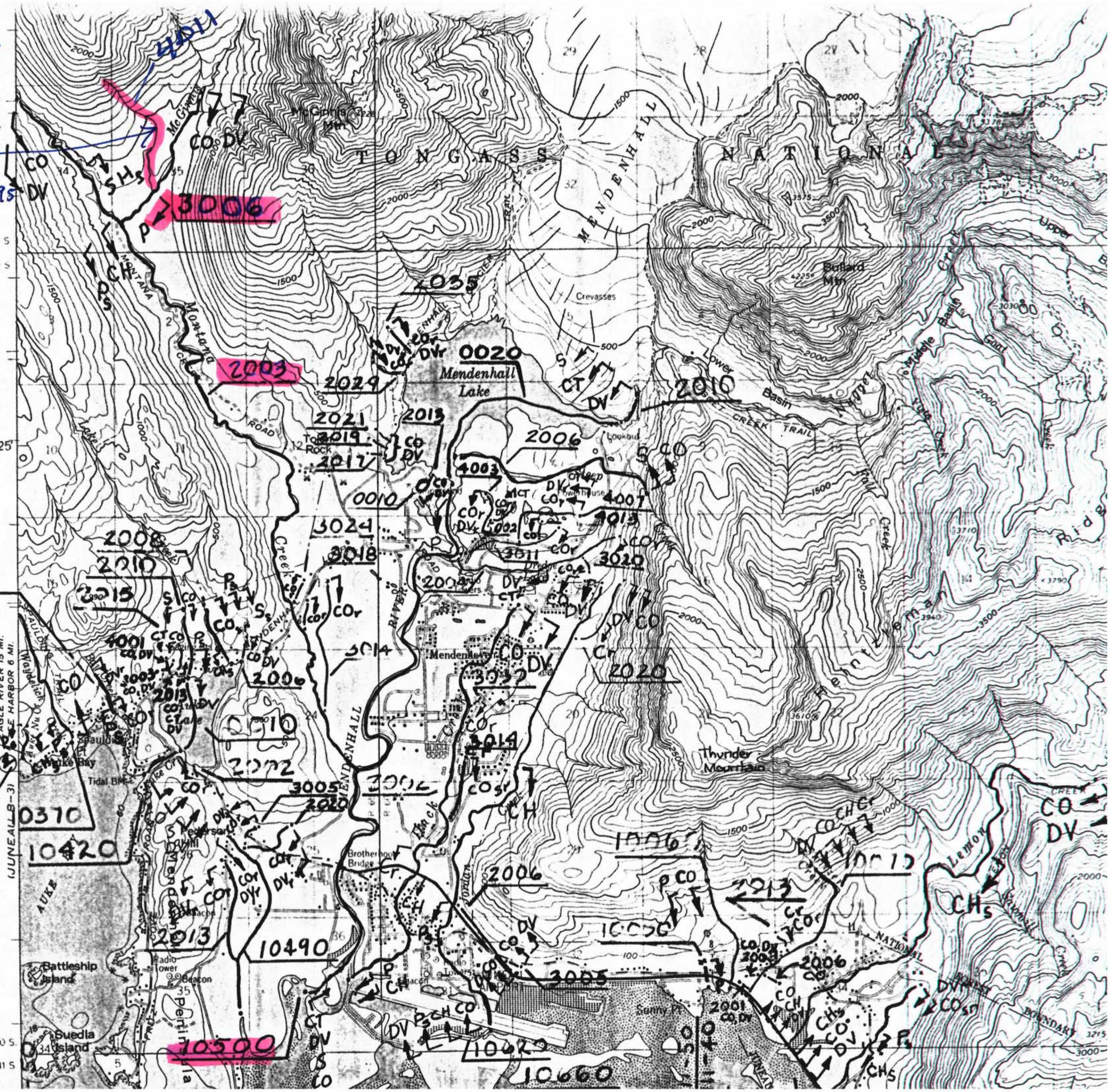
The majority of the stream is composed of small uniform size gravel. It is approximately 8 feet wide and varies in depth from 6 inches to pools 1-1.5 feet deep.

I have observed spawning coho salmon in this tributary during several surveys conducted during the years 1989-1995. However, to the best of my knowledge the most extensive survey of the stream was conducted on October 13, 1995. On that day, the tributary was surveyed by Dean Beers and Edgar Jones of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport Fish Division. They surveyed from the confluence with McGinnis Creek to a point at least 1/2 mile upstream and counted 79 live and 7 dead adult coho salmon. They reported that there were no barriers to upstream migration along this reach. They also reported that in the last 200 yards of the survey, no coho salmon were observed. This observation coincided with a change in the substrate from gravel to a more sandy composition and a decrease in the water level.

USGS Juneau B-2

surveyed to approx. this point on Oct 16, 1995

Already in Atlas



provide some potential for developing two small neighborhood sport fisheries.

Recommendations

The feasibility of stocking these small ponds should be determined. Recreational fisheries could be best provided by stocking catchable-sized fish rather than fry, as were generally stocked in the past. It is presumed that stocked fish would receive heavy angling pressure from local neighborhood children. These fisheries could only be maintained by annual releases of fish. The water quality of the ponds should be maintained by requiring all drainage into the ponds to meet the state's water quality standards. ■

Chapter 37

McGinnis Creek (also see Montana Creek)

Anadromous Stream Catalog Number:
111-50-10500-2003-3006

Location: Lat. 58°26'28" N.
Long. 134°38'40" W.
(tributary of Montana Creek, near the end of Montana Creek Road)

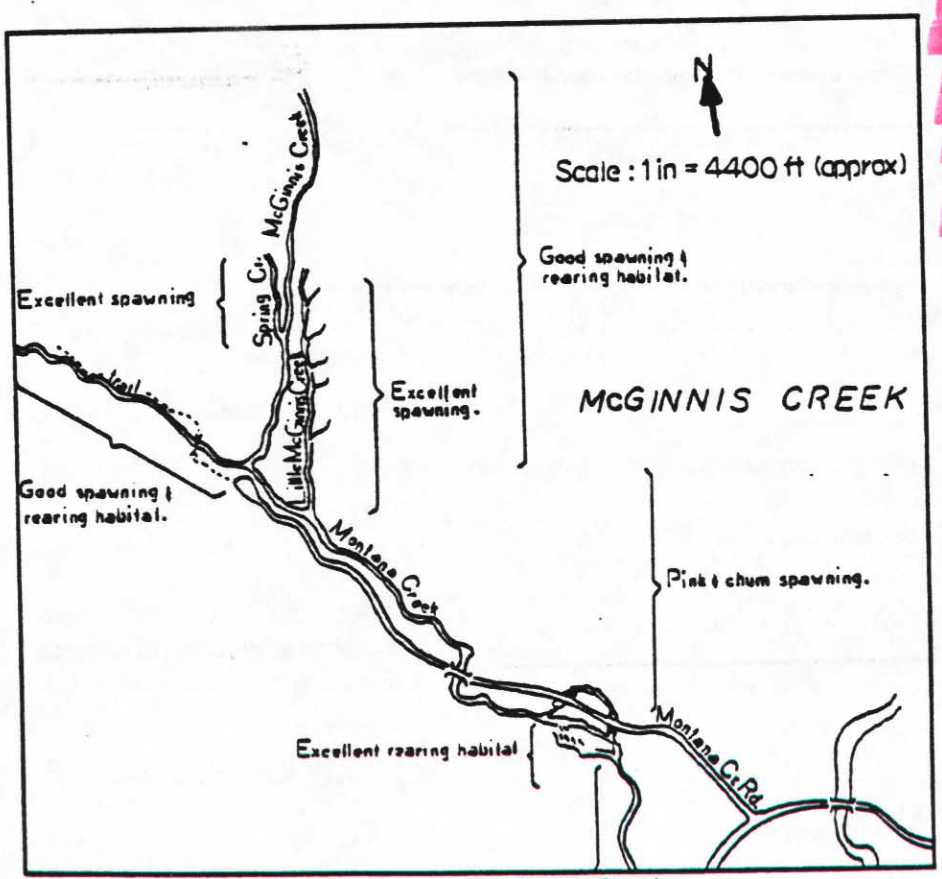


Figure 37.1 McGinnis Creek.

Description

McGinnis Creek is the main tributary to Montana Creek (figure 37.1). It is about 3 miles long, 15 feet wide, and 2 feet deep.

The stream has a moderate gradient and swift flow and has numerous pools. The streambed substrate ranges from large boulders to small gravel. The stream is seasonally glacial.

A clear, spring-fed tributary called (unofficially) Spring Creek enters McGinnis Creek about ½ mile above the confluence of McGinnis and Montana Creeks. The stream is about ¾ mile long, 8 feet wide, and up to 1 foot deep. The streambed is primarily small gravel and is a major spawning area.

Fish Species Present

McGinnis Creek has populations of coho, chum, and pink salmon, Dolly Varden, and cutthroat trout.

McGinnis Creek has not been investigated using juvenile fish traps; however, on July 31, 1970 the following observations of rearing fish were made: 13 Dolly Varden fry, 43 coho fry and 1 fingerling, and 2 fry of undetermined species.

Salmon escapement data for this stream are presented in table 37.1.

Fish Habitat

Excellent pockets of spawning habitat are found throughout the length of

McGinnis Creek. (Spring Creek, the largest tributary, also has excellent spawning habitat.)

Good rearing habitat is dispersed throughout McGinnis Creek. Overall, the stream has a moderate gradient and the water flows quite fast; however, the stream has many deep pools with excellent instream and overhead woody cover.

There are no fish barriers on McGinnis Creek.

Public Use

McGinnis Creek receives some sport fishing pressure, especially in the lower reaches. The levels of effort and harvest are not known.

This stream is also used for recreational placer mining, which is quite restricted in order to protect the creek's fishery values.

Land Ownership

McGinnis Creek originates on the Tongass National Forest. The lower part of McGinnis Creek is located on State property.

Land Uses

McGinnis Creek has been subjected to placer mining activity for many years. Historically, a large mining operation was located in the stream's headwaters. At present, gold mining is limited to recreational gold panning and by small dredges, which are permitted only during the month of June. The stream is relatively safe from land uses other than mining.

Table 37.1. Salmon escapement counts for Montana Creek.

Date	Coho	Chum	Pink	Sockeye	Chinook
1960	...	many	...	...	...
1962	...	100 (8/10)	...	...	...
1966	...	331 (7/22)	...	...	...
1967	...	400 (8/11)	...	...	...
1968	...	800 (7/12)	...	...	...
1969	...	500 (7/23)	...	...	...
1975	...	80 (7/22)	50 (7/22)	...	...
1976	...	25 (7/16)	0	...	33
1977	...	440 (7/26)	8 (8/09)	...	348
1978	7 (11/30)	...	0	...	...
1979	...	614 (7/08)	0	...	...
1980	...	451 (8/31)	0	...	...
1981	227 (10/27)	...	0	...	17
1982	545 (10/20)	...	0	...	...
1983	636 (10/10)	1 (8/31)	917 (8/31)	210 (8/31)	...
1984	581 (10/29)	...	0	...	...
1985	810 (10/08)	2647	876 (7/30)	...	...
1986	60 (10/20)	320 (7/30)	...	...	...
1987	314 (10/08)	2913 (8/07)	773 (8/07)	...	...
1988	164 (10/21)	1397 (7/22)	...	...	...
1989	566 (10/23)	925 (7/19)	114 (8/11)	10 (7/17)	...
1990	1711 (10/03)	305 (8/01)	4 (8/30)	...	3 (8/30)
1991	1425 (10/16)	197 (8/07)	23 (8/14)	...	4 (8/07)

* Counts include McGinnis Creek, Spring Creek, Little McGinnis Creek, and Montana Creek upstream from the Back Loop Road bridge.

Conclusion

McGinnis Creek is a moderate gradient, high-flow stream with an actively changing channel. The stream has an abundance of pools with excellent woody cover. McGinnis Creek is a very productive fish stream and provides a significant portion of the spawning habitat in the Montana Creek drainage.

Recommendations

The natural character and excellent fish values of this stream should be maintained through critical review of land-use permit applications.

The entire Montana Creek drainage should be placed in a fish habitat reserve or refuge status to protect its fishery values. ■